

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 28, 2005. Claims 1-11, 16-26, 31, and 36 remain pending in this application, and have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 12-15, 27-30, 32-35, and 37-40 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter; these claims will not be discussed further. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31 and 36 are independent. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Further, Claims 1-11, 13-16, 21, 26, 28-31, and 36 were rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action.

For example, Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus (e.g., the local device of Fig. 70: scanner) that performs a first operating instruction (e.g., a scan command) for the image processing apparatus and transmits a second operating instruction (e.g., a print command) to a different image processing apparatus (e.g., the remote device

of Fig. 70: printer).¹ The first operating instruction is performed by the image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by the different image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Thus, Claim 1 now recites that the first operating instruction is for the image processing apparatus.

Furthermore, Claim 6 is directed to an image processing apparatus (e.g., a remote device: printer) that receives a second operating instruction (e.g., a print command) from a different image processing apparatus (e.g., a local device: scanner) after a first operating instruction (e.g., a scan command) is performed by the different image processing apparatus (e.g., the local device), and performs an authentication process for the second operating instruction. The first operating instruction is performed by the different image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by the image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Thus, Claim 6 now recites that the first operating instruction is performed by the different image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by the image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

¹ It is of course to be understood that the references to various portions of the present application are by way of illustration and example only, and that the claims are not limited by the details shown in the portions referred to.

Moreover, Claim 11 is directed to a communication system comprising a first image processing device and a second image processing device. In Claim 11, the first operating instruction is for the first image processing device.

It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 11-20, and 26-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,115,739 (Ogawa et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 6,628,413 (Lee); and Claims 6-10, 21-25, and 36-40, as being obvious from Lee in view of Ogawa et al.

The present invention is directed to simple authentication processing for use in a case in which one image processing service, such as printing, is executed by a plurality of image processing apparatuses in combination. This invention is especially useful in cases where image data obtained by scanning an original document at a first image processing apparatus is printed at a second image processing apparatus, for example.

Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus that performs an image processing service provided by a first operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing for a different image processing apparatus. The image processing apparatus includes registration means, input means, first authentication means, transmission means, second authentication means, and determination

means. The registration means registers registration information for a user who is authorized to use the image processing apparatus, and the input means enters user information and the first operating instruction for the image processing apparatus. The first authentication means employs the registration information registered by the registration means and the user information entered by the input means to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user.

The transmission means transmits, based on results obtained by the first authentication means, to the different image processing apparatus, the second operating instruction and the user information entered by the input means. The second authentication means obtains from the different apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information received from the transmission means, to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user on the different apparatus. The determination means employs the results obtained by the second authentication means to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the image processing service. The first operating instruction is performed by the image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by the different image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Notably, in Claim 1, the first operating instruction is performed by the image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by the

different image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Ogawa et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to an image scanner adapted for direct connection to a client/server type network. A network system includes an image scanner which is connected to a network, reads images, and includes an input device for inputting identification information on a user. A file server is connected to the image scanner over the network. The file server includes directories which are created in advance in one-to-one correspondence to users and in which image data read by the image scanner is stored, and a memory in which the relationships of correspondence between identification information on users and the directories associated with the users are stored. When image data is input from the image scanner, the file server stores the image data in a directory associated with identification information input from the image scanner. Due to this configuration, an image scanner usable when connected directly to a client/server type network such as a LAN apparently can be provided.

The Office Action concedes on page 2 that “Ogawa, however, does not disclose expressly second authentication mean[s] for obtaining from the different apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information received from said transmission means, to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user on the different apparatus and determination means for employing the results obtained by said second authentication means to determine whether the user is to be

permitted to use the image processing service.”

Lee, as understood by Applicant, relates to printing documents based on Java commands. As shown in Fig. 3, a system administrator who wishes to configure a Java printer 110 can use a standard WWW browser (e.g., Netscape Navigator, Mosaic, Microsoft Navigator, IBM Web Explorer) to remotely configure the Java printer 110. The Web browser screen 120 includes a title bar 122, a menu bar 124, button icons 126, a document identifier text entry box 128, and plural additional controls such as drop box 130 which includes a list of Internet connections for which a configuration can be established. A system administrator would authenticate himself/herself to the Java printer 110 using any available security technique (i.e., Secure Socket Layer, Public Key Encryption, Symmetric Key Encryption, or a User ID and Password Hash), wherein the public key, private key or valid user ID and password hashes are stored in the non-volatile memory of the Java printer 110 or in a remote local with which the Java printer 110 can communicate securely. Having authenticated himself/herself, the system administrator would choose the configure document of printer 1 as the document to be opened by specifying the appropriate URL in the text entry box 128.

At most, Ogawa et al. discusses entering authentication information at an operation panel and registering the information in a file server. Also, at most, Lee discusses a printer that performs an authentication process.

Nothing in Ogawa et al. and Lee, whether taken either separately or in any permissible combination (if any) would teach or suggest that a first operating instruction is performed by one image processing apparatus and a second operating instruction is performed by another processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over Ogawa et al. and Lee, whether taken either separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

Independent Claims 11, 16, 26, and 31 recite certain features which are similar in many relevant respects to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1 and therefore are also believed to be patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 6 is directed to an image processing apparatus that performs, in cooperation with a different image processing apparatus that performs a first operating instruction about image processing, an image processing service provided by a second operating instruction about image processing. The image processing apparatus includes registration means, reception means, authentication means, and determination means. The registration means registers registration information for a user who is permitted to use the image processing apparatus, and the reception means receives user information and the second operating instruction for the image processing apparatus from a different apparatus.

The authentication means employs the registration information registered by the registration means and the user information received by the reception means to determine whether the user is an authorized user. The second operating instruction is received after the first operating instruction is authenticated to be performed on the different image processing apparatus. The determination means employs results obtained by the authentication means to determine whether the second operating instruction received by the reception means is to be accepted. The first operating instruction is performed by the different image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by the image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Nothing in Lee and Osawa et al., whether taken either separately or in any permissible combination (if any) would teach or suggest that a first operating instruction is performed by the different image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by the image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed, as recited in Claim 6.

Accordingly, Claim 6 is believed to be clearly allowable over Lee and Ogawa et al., whether taken either separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

Independent Claims 21 and 36 recite certain features which are similar in many relevant respects to those discussed above with respect to Claim 6 and therefore are also believed to be patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed

above.

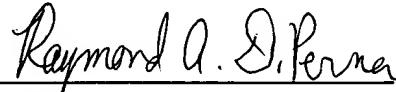
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office
by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Raymond A. DiPerna". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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